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Le document présente divers tableaux statistiques sur les enfants maltraités ou négligés entre 1975 et 1979. Au cours de cette période, la base pour la compilation statistique était la famille, quelqu'ait été le nombre d'enfants qui étaient victimes dans chaque famille. Les statistiques sont données, mois par mois, sous cinq rubriques: 1. nombre de demandes d'assistance; 2. nombre de nouveaux cas acceptés; 3. origine des rapports; 4. répartition régionale; 5. types de mauvais traitements rapportés. Les derniers tableaux présentent le nombre de rapports qui furent jugés acceptables par les directeurs de la protection de la jeunesse depuis l'entrée en vigueur de la loi actuelle, au 15 janvier 1979, jusqu'au 29 décembre 1979.

Entre 1975 et 1979, il y a eu un accroissement constant dans le nombre de cas d'enfants maltraités qui ont été rapportés. Alors que le nombre de nouveaux cas rapportés était de 1910 en 1976 (compilation par famille), il était de 2781 en 1978.

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Gouvernement du Québec
Ministère de la Justice
Comité de la protection de la jeunesse

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REPORTS OF CASES OF MALTREATMENT STATISTICS 1975-1979

Jacques Lapierre

STUDIES AND RESEARCH

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COMITE DE LA PROTECTION DE LA JEUNESSE
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Cases of maltreated children reported in Québec --
Statistics 1975-1979

THE COMITÉ DE LA PROTECTION DE LA JEUNESSE

On December 28, 1974, the Québec government passed the legislation which created the Comité pour la protection de la jeunesse. This statute, the Act respecting the protection of children subject to ill-treatment (1974, c. 59), amended the Youth Protection Act.

In the explanatory notes accompanying the bill, the Comité was described:

> This bill provides for the establishment of a committee for the protection of youth. The committee's functions are to promote the protection of children subjected to ill-treatment in the form of abuse or neglect, to prevent such abuse and neglect and to preserve the family life of the child as far as possible.
>
> ...
>
> When the committee is informed of a child that is subjected to ill-treatment as the result of abuse or neglect, it must conduct an inquiry and then examine the situation.
>
> If it is of the opinion that the case is not serious, it shall close the record. If it considers that measures must be taken to remedy the situation, it shall make the appropriate recommendations and pass them on to the persons concerned. It may insist on being kept informed of the development of the situation. If, on the other hand, it thinks the situation requires the intervention

of the Court of Social Welfare, it shall refer the matter to the Court.

Under this legislation the committee intervened directly in the cases of maltreated children referred to it. Thus, the Comité was the first agency to furnish statistics on the maltreatment of children, since it was established specifically with this target group in view.

However, on January 15, 1979, the new Youth Protection Act came into force. This statute, assented to on December 19, 1977 (1977, c. 20), repealed the former Act respecting the protection of children subject to ill-treatment and revamped the socio-judicial administration of youth protection and action in the field of juvenile delinquency. With the new legislation, maltreated children were integrated into other categories of situations calling for protection, and the direct responsibility for receiving reports, analysing situations and taking in charge was entrusted to the directors of youth protection.

The committee was thus given a mandate of general supervision over the application of the law and of promotion of services favouring youth protection. In line with its previous role, more specifically it was instructed to review situations involving maltreated children, by analysing the action taken by directors of youth protection in cases of maltreatment.

Statistically, therefore, the directors of youth protection now have the first-hand information, and they supply the numbers of reports and referrals. The Comité has compiled statistics on its review activities: the number of cases to

be re-examined are the notices of reports under section 38f received from the directors.

DEFINITION

In the 1974 statute, the legislator presented situations that were to be reported in these terms:

> 14j. Every person, even one having privileged information by reason of his office, who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is subject to physical ill-treatment as the result of abuse or neglect is bound to bring the situation to the attention of the committee without delay. (1974, c. 59)

Because of the general nature of such a definition, the committee developed definitions of various situations involving maltreatment with a view to clarifying its action and setting standards for its operations. There are three aspects to the definition and situations are described for each: physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

For a case of a maltreated child to be accepted as such by the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse, and be within its sphere of action, first, it had to be certain, or at least presumed that the abuse was not accidental and that there was a relation of responsibility between the abusive adult and the victim. In addition, the abuse had to be serious enough for there to be reason to fear that the health, development or even the life of the victim was in jeopardy.

Physical Abuse

The definition of physical abuse covers three types of maltreatment:

1. Blows or acts which cause bodily injuries such as bruises, cuts, burns, hematomas, lesions, fractures, etc.

2. The intentional administration of drugs, medication or alcohol in sufficient quantity or with sufficient frequency to cause problems or illness.

3. Conditions under which the child is kept being such that his health, development or life is endangered, such as: shutting him up in a cupboard, closet, wardrobe, basement room etc., tying him up and so forth.

Sexual Abuse

We regarded as sexual abuse not only heterosexual and homosexual relations, complete or incomplete, but also sexual acts and games between one or more adults and a child under 18, with the object of stimulating the child sexually or using the child to obtain sexual gratification for one's own person or a partner.

Neglect

The concept of neglect is difficult to fully grasp and seems to be open to as many interpretations as there are groups or individuals attempting to define it. The dictionary implies a negative sense of lack, omission, or carelessness and refers us to the word failure, which in turn conveys the negative aspect of insufficiency, deficiency or absence. In other words maltreatment here is by omission, or lack of appropriate care.

For a neglected child to be accepted as such by the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse and come within its sphere of action, of course it had to be certain or at least presumed that it was a question of a chronic absence or insufficiency in quantity and quality of response to his physical needs, so that there was reason to fear that his health, development or his life was endangered. Neglect was thus established in terms of the inadequate or dangerous manner of caring for a child, or the want of proper parenting, either chronic, over long periods or frequently repeated.

Our definition of neglect covers lack or insufficiency of food, shelter, clothing, essential care and hygiene, supervision and medical care.

Nutritional neglect

The children who are victims in this instance are not given food in sufficient quantities or quality. The children are often behind in their development as regards height and weight; this in no way implies that all the children suffering from slow development are neglected children, for there are many other factors that can be involved in slow growth and weight gain. Children who are deprived of proper food often suffer from protein, vitamin or other deficiencies, rickets or other effects of malnutrition. When they are old enough to express themselves, these children complain constantly of hunger and beg people, neighbours and friends, for food.

Neglect in providing shelter

The children and families suffering from this deprivation live in homes where the structure is in a perilous condition, the electrical system is defective and dangerous (uncovered wires, etc.), where heating, insulation and plumbing are non-existent or poorly adapted to the climate.

Neglect in clothing

The children who are victims here are inadequately clothed or shod to protect them from climatic conditions, or they are excessively exposed. According to the season, they suffer continually or repeatedly from sunburn, chilblains, colds or grippe which may lead to pneumonia.

Neglect in essential care and bodily hygiene

The children who suffer from this form of neglect are chronically dirty; their clothes are seldom if ever washed. They often suffer from serious infections, dermatitis, dermatosis, or other skin diseases; they may be infested with parasites or show other signs of a constant lack of hygiene.

Neglect in supervision

These children are left to themselves or under the supervision of other children who are too young to assume this responsibility, for sufficiently long periods or frequently enough to mean that they are virtually without protection. Among them are children who are almost totally abandoned, left out on the street in the evenings or at night, who cannot enter their homes after school or other activities and who are often left alone at home without care.

Neglect in medical care

These neglected children have parents who refuse to provide for their medical care, diagnoses or treatment, which can lead to serious consequences at a time when the diseases they may suffer from are curable.

In addition to the situations described above, the Comité introduced the concept of high risk situation, enabling it to help children and their families under a preventive program.

Situations involving a high risk of physical abuse

The children exposed to a high risk of physical abuse live in homes where violence explodes among the adults, who have not yet taken it out on the children but where this may happen. In this kind of situation, the children often have to take shelter under furniture, elsewhere in the house or outside the home. In such an atmosphere of violence a child may be injured by accident. Or he may wish to take sides in the adult conflict, to protect or defend one person, thus placing himself in danger. The same risk may exist even if he does not take sides.

Other high-risk children live in situations where violence has not yet exploded, but exists in a latent state. The child may be pushed around or slapped about without being maltreated to the point at which his health, development or life is in danger. However, a greater loss of control is to be feared on the part of adults in whom violence is smouldering. In other cases, violence has already exploded, one or more children have been mistreated, but the crisis is past.

Nevertheless, the risk of further family crises persists and the same children, or others in the family, live in an atmosphere of strained relations and precarious, fragile peace.

Situations involving a high risk of neglect

In the same fashion, situations involving a high risk of neglect, where living conditions could lead to a lack of food, shelter, clothing, essential care and hygiene, supervision or medical care could be accepted for intervention.

As may be seen, from the text of the law setting forth its mandate, the Comité had drawn up a broad spectrum of situations involving maltreatment. With the new Youth Protection Act, the situations calling for protection were made more specific in the legislation itself, and the definition of ill-treatment has been modified accordingly.

CHANGE OF DEFINITION

Today, practice with regard to children who are physically or sexually abused is based on section 38, paragraph f, which reads as follows:

> Sec. 38 (f) he is the victim of sexual assault or he is subject to physical ill-treatment through violence or neglect.

It is those cases identified as situations coming under section 38f that directors of youth protection are required to refer to the Comité for review.

Sec. 41 The director must notify the Comité in the case of a child who is the victim of sexual assault or who is subject to physical ill-treatment through violence or neglect.

As can be seen, the new definition is more explicit than that of 1974 (c. 59) with respect to sexual abuse.

Other situations as well, which the committee had included in the concept of maltreatment, are now spelled out in the Youth Protection Act, but in sections other than 38f, that is, elsewhere than the section on maltreated children.

The concept of high risk has been separated from that of ill-treatment and is specified in section 38d:

Sec. 38 (d) he is in the custody of a person whose behaviour or way of life creates a risk of moral or physical danger for the child.

The concept of neglect also has far less bearing on maltreatment under section 38f, since there are other definitions in section 38 to which social workers can refer:

Sec. 38 (b) his mental or emotional development or his health is threatened by the isolation in which he is maintained or the lack of appropriate care.

Sec. 38 (c) he is deprived of the material conditions of life appropriate to his needs and to the resources of his family.

Sec. 38 (h) he is forced or induced to beg, to do work disproportionate to his strength or to perform for the public in a manner that is

unacceptable for his age.

With these specifications of cases calling for protection in the new law, statistics regarding maltreated children, essentially those covered by section 38f, refer to a reality that is appreciably different from that which obtained previously. The new description is more restrictive, and in the minds of those who apply it is centred mainly on abusive acts of a physical or sexual nature.

STATISTICS -- 1975 to 1979

The presentation of the statistical tables that follow distinguish between the two realities described. First there are statistics covering reports of maltreated children received by the committee under its former mandate, between October 1975 and January 15, 1979. The statistical compilation base was at that time the family, that is the number of families reported, irrespective of the number of children who were victimized in each family. Later there are statistics on children who were victims of sexual abuse or subjected to ill-treatment in the form of violence or neglect. These are the cases reported to the directors of youth protection, that is the number of reports received and accepted and the number of children (rather than families) referred. Along with the director of youth protection statistics, supplementary data, based on the review notices received by the Comité, will be presented.

Statistics on protection cases (1975-1979)

The statistics kept by the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse on reported cases of maltreated children have been taken from the annual reports for 1976-1977 and 1978-1979. The statistics included were: the number of requests for assistance received, the number of case reports (families) accepted for checking and assessment, the origin of the reports, their regional distribution and their breakdown by type of abuse.

TABLE 1 STATISTICS OCTOBER 1, 1975 to March 31, 1976 (based on number of families)

	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 6 months	Monthly average	Cumulative total	Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	583	507	448	475	508	544	3065	510.8		
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	265	230	178	196	220	225	1314	219.0		
C. Origin of report	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %			
Individual with personal tie with child	167 63	136 59	100 56	96 49	114 52	106 47	719 55	119.8		
Individual with institutional tie with child	98 37	94 41	78 44	100 41	106 48	119 53	595 45	99.2		
D. Regional distribution	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %			
01 Gaspésie	- -	2 1	- -	9 5	4 2	8 4	23 2			
02 Saguenay	1 *	2 1	4 2	11 6	6 3	9 3	33 3			
03 Québec City	31 12	31 13	17 9	23 12	27 13	40 16	169 13			
04 Trois-Rivières	14 5	8 3	17 10	12 6	8 4	13 6	72 5			
05 Estrie	2 1	7 3	1 1	7 4	3 1	4 1	24 2			
6A Montréal Métropolitain	132 50	110 48	90 50	90 46	107 48	90 42	619 47			
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	21 8	15 7	20 11	16 8	13 6	17 8	102 8			
6C Montréal Sud	42 16	34 16	20 11	19 10	34 16	25 12	174 13			
07 Outaouais	19 7	16 7	5 3	6 3	5 2	9 4	60 5			
08 Nord-Ouest	3 1	1 -	4 2	3 2	2 1	6 2	19 1			
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	- -	4 2	- -	- -	11 5	4 2	19 1			
E. Types of maltreatment reported	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %			
Physical abuse	137 52	120 52	83 47	92 47	114 52	121 54	667 51	111.2		
Sexual abuse	9 3	11 5	5 3	7 4	13 6	11 5	56 4	9.3		
Neglect	74 28	61 27	48 27	66 34	48 22	49 22	346 26	57.7		
High risk	- -	1	10 6	7 4	10 4	14 6	42 3	7.0		
Several forms of abuse	45 17	37 16	32 18	24 12	35 16	29 13	202 15	33.7		

TABLE 2 STATISTICS APRIL 1 to September 30, 1976 (based on number of families)

	April		May		June		July		August		September		Total 6 months		Monthly average	Total 12 months		Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	468		447		381		240		285		291		2112		352.0	5177		431.4
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	155		170		213		128		110		127		903		150.5	2217		184.8
C. Origin of report	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Individual with personal tie with child	74	48	95	56	126	59	76	59	67	61	75	59	513	56.8	85.5	1242	36	103.5
Individual with institutional tie with child	81	52	75	44	87	41	52	41	43	39	52	41	390	43.2	65.0	975	44	81.3
D. Regional distribution	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				N	%	
01 Gaspésie	2	1	3	2	2	1	5	4	3	3	3	2				41	2	
02 Saguenay	7	5	11	6	14	6	7	5	3	3	4	3				79	4	
03 Québec City	13	8	26	15	25	12	17	13	22	20	16	13				288	13	
04 Trois-Rivières	9	6	7	4	8	4	7	5	6	5	6	5				115	5	
05 Estrie	-	-	7	4	4	2	3	2	-	-	3	2				41	2	
6A Montréal Métropolitain	75	48	82	48	79	37	56	44	45	41	62	48				1019	46	
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	13	8	6	4	23	11	6	5	8	7	8	6				166	7	
6C Montréal Sud	25	10	20	12	37	17	19	15	16	15	14	11				305	14	
07 Outaouais	3	2	4	2	10	5	6	5	-	-	6	5				89	4	
08 Nord-Ouest	4	3	2	1	9	4	1	1	7	6	4	3				46	2	
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	4	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	1				28	1	
E. Types of maltreatment reported	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Physical abuse	98	63	94	55	108	51	64	50	50	45	64	50	478	52.9	79.7	1145	52	95.4
Sexual abuse	15	10	4	2	4	2	7	6	5	5	1	5	36	4.0	6.0	92	4	7.7
Neglect	28	18	42	25	55	26	35	27	23	21	37	29	220	24.4	36.7	566	26	47.2
High risk	7	4	8	5	10	5	3	2	4	4	8	7	40	4.4	6.7	83	4	6.8
Several forms of abuse	7	4	22	13	36	17	19	15	28	25	10	13	122	13.5	20.3	330	15	27.0

TABLE 3 STATISTICS OCTOBER 1, 1976 to MARCH 31, 1977 (based on number of families)

	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 6 months	Monthly average	Total 18 months	Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	397	663	524	613	645	990	3832	638.7	9009	500.5
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	108	138	120	134	174	211	885	147.5	3102	172.3
C. Origin of report	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
Individual with personal tie with child	43 40	55 40	38 32	63 47	68 39	91 42	358 40.5	59.7	1600 51.6	88.9
Individual with institutional tie with child	65 60	83 60	82 68	71 53	106 61	120 58	527 59.5	87.8	1502 48.4	83.4
D. Regional distribution	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %			N %	
01 Gaspésie	5 4	4 3	4 3	6 4	6 3	3 1			69 2	
02 Saguenay	2 2	2 1	5 4	5 4	7 4	12 6			112 4	
03 Québec City	16 15	10 7	17 14	18 13	26 15	20 9			395 13	
04 Trois-Rivières	8 7	7 5	2 2	7 5	7 3	14 7			160 5	
05 Estrie	3 3	3 2	1 1	2 1	3 2	- -			53 2	
6A Montréal Métropolitain	41 38	63 46	49 41	50 37	61 35	74 35			1357 44	
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	8 7	14 10	15 12	13 10	16 9	26 12			258 8	
6C Montréal Sud	17 16	25 18	16 13	25 19	26 16	38 18			452 14	
07 Outaouais	4 4	5 4	5 4	3 2	13 7	11 5			130 4	
08 Nord-Ouest	2 2	4 3	3 2	3 2	4 2	3 1			65 2	
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	2 2	1 1	3 2	2 1	5 3	10 5			51 2	
Types of maltreatment reported	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
Physical abuse	64 59	70 51	68 57	73 54	109 63	119 59	503 56.8	83.8	1648 53	91.6
Sexual abuse	3 3	9 6	15 12	4 3	12 7	20 9	63 7.1	10.5	155 5	8.6
Neglect	27 25	25 18	16 13	23 17	15 9	28 13	134 15.1	22.3	700 23	38.8
High risk	3 3	11 8	10 8	16 12	14 8	22 10	76 8.6	12.7	159 5	8.8
Several forms of abuse	11 10	23 17	11 9	18 13	24 14	23 10	110 12.4	18.3	440 14	24.4

TABLE 4 STATISTICS APRIL 1 to SEPTEMBER 30, 1977 (based on number of families)

	April		May		June		July		August		September		Total 6 months		Monthly average	Total 24 months		Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	802		849		910		604		807		644		4616		769.3	13625		567.7
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	186		242		181		134		184		160		1087		181.2	4189		174.5
C. Origin of report	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Individual with personal tie with child	76	41	98	40	98	54	71	53	106	58	86	54	535	49.2	89.1	2135	51	89.0
Individual with institutional tie with child	110	59	144	60	83	46	63	47	78	42	74	46	552	50.8	92.0	2054	49	85.6
D. Regional distribution	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				N	%	
01 Gaspésie	5	3	8	3	5	3	5	4	8	4	1	1				101	2	
02 Saguenay	5	3	12	5	7	4	5	4	3	2	6	4				150	4	
03 Québec City	15	8	26	11	17	9	13	10	18	10	17	11				501	12	
04 Trois-Rivières	12	6	4	2	7	4	3	2	11	6	11	7				208	5	
05 Estrie	6	3	5	2	6	3	6	4	6	3	2	1				84	2	
6A Montréal Métropolitain	83	45	102	42	71	39	58	43	86	47	66	41				1823	44	
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	9	5	18	7	10	6	12	9	13	7	17	11				337	8	
6C Montréal Sud	38	20	37	15	37	20	23	17	23	12	27	17				637	15	
07 Outaouais	9	5	12	5	9	5	7	5	11	6	5	3				183	4	
08 Nord-Ouest	3	2	10	4	6	3	1	1	3	2	4	2				92	2	
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	1	1	8	3	6	3	1	1	2	1	4	2				73	2	
E. Types of maltreatment reported	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Physical abuse	107	58	126	52	101	56	63	47	88	48	79	49	564	51.9	94.0	2212	53	92.2
Sexual abuse	10	5	14	6	9	5	11	8	14	8	13	8	71	6.5	11.8	226	5	9.4
Neglect	44	24	47	19	29	16	21	16	46	25	32	20	219	20.1	36.5	919	22	38.3
High risk	13	7	25	10	12	7	11	8	12	6	14	9	87	8.0	14.5	246	6	10.3
Several forms of abuse	12	6	30	12	30	16	28	21	24	13	22	14	146	13.4	24.3	586	14	24.4

TABLE 5 STATISTICS OCTOBER 1, 1977 to MARCH 31, 1978 (based on number of families)

	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total 6 months	Monthly average	Total 30 months	Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	692	892	730	833	780	943	5140	856.7	18495	616.5
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	226	255	208	208	192	238	1327	221.2	5516	183.9
C. Origin of report	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
Individual with personal tie with child	129 57	131 51	96 46	110 53	83 43	104 44	653 49.2	108.8	2788 51	92.9
Individual with institutional tie with child	97 43	124 49	112 54	98 47	109 57	134 56	674 50.8	112.3	2728 49	90.3
D. Regional distribution	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %			N %	
01 Gaspésie	11 5	5 2	6 3	5 2	6 3	6 3			140 3	
02 Saguenay	15 7	13 5	7 3	4 2	9 5	10 4			208 4	
03 Québec City	20 9	22 7	24 12	22 11	15 8	17 7			621 11	
04 Trois-Rivières	10 4	12 5	7 3	7 3	8 4	17 7			269 5	
05 Estrie	4 2	8 3	8 4	7 3	5 3	8 3			124 2	
6A Montréal Métropolitain	80 35	108 42	74 36	98 47	74 39	92 39			2349 43	
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	25 11	17 7	26 12	19 9	20 10	17 7			461 8	
6C Montréal Sud	38 17	40 16	36 17	36 17	27 14	39 16			853 15	
07 Outaouais	13 6	16 6	8 4	3 1	9 5	10 4			242 4	
08 Nord-Ouest	4 2	5 2	8 4	4 2	12 6	9 4			134 2	
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	6 3	9 4	4 2	3 1	7 4	13 5			115 2	
E. Types of maltreatment reported	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
Physical abuse	101 45	111 44	108 52	106 51	80 42	99 42	605 45.6	100.8	2817 51	93.9
Sexual abuse	17 8	16 6	18 9	11 5	16 8	10 4	88 6.6	14.7	314 6	10.5
Neglect	64 28	54 21	51 25	47 23	57 30	70 29	343 25.8	57.2	1262 23	42.1
High risk	16 7	32 13	14 7	25 12	22 11	23 10	132 9.9	22.0	378 7	12.6
Several forms of abuse	28 12	42 16	17 8	19 9	17 9	36 15	159 12.0	26.5	745 14	24.8

TABLE 6 STATISTICS APRIL 1 to SEPTEMBER 30, 1978 (based on number of families)

	April		May		June		July		August		September		Total 6 months		Monthly average	Total 36 months		Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	937		1072		1057		820		895		861		5642		940.3	24137		670.4
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	259		280		253		201		213		157		1363		227.2	6879		191.1
C. Origin of report	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Individual with personal tie with child	119	46	138	49	139	55	104	52	117	55	96	61	713	52.3	118.8	3501	51	97.3
Individual with institutional tie with child	140	54	142	51	114	45	97	48	96	45	61	39	650	47.7	108.3	3378	49	93.8
D. Regional distribution	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				N	%	
01 Gaspésie	4	2	7	2	9	4	10	5	3	1	3	2				176	3	
02 Saguenay	7	3	18	6	14	6	6	3	4	2	12	8				269	4	
03 Québec City	30	12	21	8	28	11	14	7	21	10	18	11				753	11	
04 Trois-Rivières	11	4	16	6	16	6	10	5	8	4	12	8				342	5	
05 Estrie	10	4	14	5	10	4	4	2	5	2	1	1				168	2	
6A Montréal Métropolitain	88	34	97	35	106	42	72	36	81	38	51	32				2844	41	
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	34	13	34	12	15	6	16	8	17	8	19	12				596	9	
6C Montréal Sud	43	17	48	17	34	13	43	21	45	21	26	17				1092	16	
07 Outaouais	16	6	12	4	7	3	9	4	14	7	7	4				307	4	
08 Nord-Ouest	13	5	10	4	5	2	9	4	8	4	1	1				180	3	
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	3	1	3	1	9	2	8	4	7	3	7	4				152	2	
E. Types of maltreatment reported	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		N	%	
Physical abuse	111	43	119	42	119	47	84	42	89	42	66	42	588	43.1	98.0	3405	49	94.6
Sexual abuse	19	7	19	7	14	6	15	7	17	8	15	10	99	7.3	16.5	413	6	11.5
Neglect	76	29	70	25	72	28	37	18	49	23	44	28	348	25.5	58.0	1610	23	44.7
High risk	29	11	26	9	15	6	13	6	27	13	9	6	119	8.7	19.8	497	7	13.8
Several forms of abuse	24	9	46	16	33	13	52	26	31	15	23	15	209	15.3	34.8	954	14	26.5

TABLE 7 STATISTICS OCTOBER 1, 1978 to JANUARY 15, 1979 (based on number of families)

	October	November	December	January (15)	Total 3½ months	Monthly average	Total 39½ months	Cumulative monthly average
A. Number of requests for assistance received by CPJ (under its mandate or not)	1196	1233	970	389	3788		27925	707.0
B. Number of new case reports (family) accepted for checking-assessment	260	292	228	133	913	260.9	7792	197.3
C. Origin of report	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
Individual with personal tie with child	134 52	138 47	105 46	85 64	462 50.6	132.0	3963 51	100.3
Individual with institutional tie with child	126 48	154 53	123 54	48 36	451 49.4	128.9	3829 49	96.9
D. Regional distribution	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
01 Gaspésie	5 2	6 2	3 1	2 2			192 2	
02 Saguenay	10 4	11 4	7 3	4 3			301 4	
03 Québec City	28 11	31 11	23 10	15 11			850 11	
04 Trois-Rivières	19 7	18 6	12 5	5 4			396 5	
05 Estrie	6 2	11 4	6 3	4 3			195 2	
6A Montréal Métropolitain	90 35	108 37	90 39	45 34			3177 41	
6B Laurentides Lanaudière	25 10	28 10	23 10	17 13			689 9	
6C Montréal Sud	45 17	43 15	40 18	33 25			1253 16	
07 Outaouais	15 6	14 5	11 5	5 4			352 5	
08 Nord-Ouest	11 4	15 5	9 4	3 2			218 3	
09 10 Côte Nord/Nouveau Québec	6 2	7 2	4 2	- -			169 2	
E. Types of maltreatment reported	N %	N %	N %	N %	N %		N %	
Physical abuse	103 40	128 44	98 43	51 38	380 41.6	108.6	3785 49	95.8
Sexual abuse	24 9	28 10	19 8	10 8	81 8.9	23.1	494 6	12.5
Neglect	63 24	54 18	56 25	36 27	209 22.9	59.7	1819 23	46.1
High risk	33 13	30 10	19 8	13 10	95 10.4	27.1	592 8	15.0
Several forms of abuse	37 14	52 18	36 16	23 17	148 16.2	42.3	1102 14	27.9

TABLE 8 Evolution of reports accepted, by type of abuse, for the entire former mandate of the Comité pour la protection de la jeunesse (October 1, 1975 to January 15, 1979)

Period	October 1, 1975 to March 31, 1976 (6 months)			April 1, 1976 to September 30, 1976 (6 months)			October 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977 (6 months)			April 1, 1977 to September 30, 1977 (6 months)			October 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978 (6 months)			April 1, 1978 to September 30, 1978 (6 months)			October 1, 1978 to January 15, 1979 (3½ months)		
Reports accepted	N	%	VAR (%)	N	%	VAR (%)	N	%	VAR (%)	N	%	VAR (%)	N	%	VAR (%)	N	%	VAR (%)	N	%	VAR (%)
Physical abuse	667	51	-	478	53	(-28)	503	57	(+5)	564	52	(+12)	605	45	(+7)	588	43	(-3)	380	42	(+11)
Sexual abuse	56	4	-	36	4	(-36)	63	7	(+75)	71	7	(+11)	88	7	(+23)	99	7	(+13)	81	9	(+40)
Neglect	346	26	-	220	24	(-36)	134	15	(-39)	219	20	(+63)	343	26	(+57)	348	26	(+1)	209	23	(+3)
High risk	42	3	-	40	4	(-5)	76	9	(+90)	87	8	(+14)	132	10	(+52)	119	9	(-10)	95	10	(+37)
Several types of abuse	202	15	-	122	14	(-40)	110	12	(-10)	146	13	(+33)	159	12	(+9)	209	15	(+31)	148	16	(+21)
Total (new family cases)	1314	100	-	903	100	(-31)	885	100	(-2)	1087	100	(+22)	1327	100	(+22)	1363	100	(+3)	913	100	(+15)

* Before establishing the % of variation over the previous period, we extrapolated the figures obtained for 3½ months over 6 months, as for the previous period.

Statistics of reports accepted by the directors of youth protection according to the nature of the situation, 1979

The table that follows presents the number of reports deemed acceptable by the directors of youth protection from January 15, 1979, when the present law came into force, to December 29, 1979,* as compiled by the ministère des Affaires sociales. In this table, it is the column entitled "Under Section 38 f" which shows the number of reports of physical or sexual abuse as a result of violence or neglect. The numbers reported to each DYP or CSS and the provincial total are given. As can be seen, the reports under section 38f represented 10 percent of all the reports accepted by the DYP.

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* The MAS establishes its statistics for the 13 periods of the budget year rather than on an annual basis; the date of December 29, 1979, was the end of one of these periods, the closest to the end of the year.

TABLE 9 SUMMARY OF REPORTS UNDER THE YOUTH PROTECTION ACT FOR ALL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRES — JANUARY 15, 1979 to DECEMBER 29, 1979[1]

Social service centre	Under Section 38 except f		Under Section 38 f		Under Section 38 Total		Under Section 40		Protection Grand Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la Madeleine	267	1.1	42	0.8	309	1.0	430	1.7	739	1.3
Bas du Fleuve	345	1.4	156	2.9	501	1.7	222	0.9	729	1.3
Saguenay, Lac St-Jean	1 296	5.3	134	2.5	1 430	4.8	1 842	7.3	3 272	5.9
Québec City	1 945	8.0	323	6.1	2 268	7.7	2 793	11.0	5 061	9.2
Centre du Québec	1 448	6.0	328	6.2	1 776	6.0	1 768	7.0	3 539	6.4
Estrie	1 268	5.2	210	4.0	1 478	5.0	956	3.8	2 484	4.5
Montréal Métropolitain	6 034	24.8	1 001	18.8	7 035	23.7	5 245	20.7	12 280	22.3
Ville Marie	2 786	11.5	797	15.0	3 583	12.1	1 772	9.9	5 335	9.9
Jewish Family Services	303	1.2	106		409	1.9	155	0.6	564	1.0
Laurentides-Lanaudière	2 880	11.9	559	10.5	3 448	11.6	4 151	16.4	7 609	13.8
Richelieu	3 693	15.2	1 165	21.9	4 858	16.4	2 899	11.4	7 857	14.3
Outaouais	915	3.8	190	3.6	1 105	3.7	1 514	6.0	2 618	4.7
Nord-Ouest	609	2.5	236	4.4	845	2.9	875	3.5	1 708	3.1
Côte-Nord	521	2.1	70	1.3	591	2.0	690	2.7	1 281	2.3
TOTAL	24 319	100.0	5 317	100.0	29 636	100.0	25 312	100.0	55 076	100.0
Proportion of the total of protection cases	44.0%		10.0%		54.0%		46.0%		100.0%	

1 A report (only reports that were acceptable figure in the table) corresponds to one child. When a child was reported more than once, the child was only counted once.

Statistics on situations of maltreated children or victims of sexual abuse of which the Comité was advised in 1979*

The new Youth Protection Act (section 41) provides that the director of youth protection must inform the Comité of all the cases of maltreated children he accepts. The Comité has been entrusted with a specific role of re-examining these cases because of the great vulnerability of this target group.

As agreed, the directors send the committee all the reports under section 38f which they receive and accept. Thus the committee has been able to do a summary statistical survey of this clientele. The statistics that follow are compiled from the copies of reports sent to the committee in 1979. Since these are reports and not authenticated cases, sometimes the information is incomplete for certain variables.

Geographical Distribution (Table 10)

Table 10 shows that the great majority of the children reported under section 38f in 1979 were being brought to the committee's attention for the first time (3 479, or 83.3%).

On the other hand, 8.8% of the reports sent on by the directors in 1979 referred to children who had already been reported, when the Comité held its mandate for the protection of maltreated children under the previous legislation.[1]

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* Excerpt from the annual report for 1979-1980 of the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse.

1 Act respecting the protection of children subject to ill-treatment, S.Q. 1974, c. 59, ss. 14a and 14b.

In addition, 6.9% of the 1979 reports (289) were in fact cases reported for the second or third time under 38f for the same year. In other words, nearly 300 youngsters were reported more than once during this period as being presumably victims of physical or sexual abuse.

The geographical distribution of the regions in which cases were reported revealed a number of anomalies; for instance region 06C (Richelieu) was definitely over-represented when compared with its population of youngsters. Nearly 35% of the reports came from this region, which accounts for only 17.1% of the population. With 10% of the reports, the other region on the outskirts of Montréal, Saint-Jérôme (region 06B), also had a proportion slightly higher than its population figures. On the other hand, the whole of eastern Québec was obviously under-represented. Montréal (combining the three SSC), Trois-Rivières and Hull are the three regions in which reports are in proportion to the juvenile population (Montréal 26%, Trois-Rivières 7% and Hull 4%).

The results in question are based on reports that the directors considered acceptable and sent on the Comité: the differences between real reports and those sent on may vary from one SSC to another. It also seems that the interpretation of section 38f, or criteria of acceptability for such a report, may vary from one region to another, thus explaining in part the disparity of results.

Types of Abuse (Table 11)

In Table 11 the different types of situations reported to directors are shown. It must be borne in mind that the situation calling for protection under section 38f is a more restrictive definition of the problem than what had obtained under the committee's former mandate. Section 38f concentrates on active maltreatment (physical or sexual abuse) rather than neglect; nevertheless this concept and that of high risk situations are covered by other paragraphs of section 38.

Therefore it is not surprising to find a large proportion of reports of physical abuse (54.6%) in the table. This aspect of abusive behaviour is clearly predominant and is found in combination with neglect (10.4% of cases) and sexual abuse (1.6% of cases). This behaviour is more visible socially and less surrounded by taboos than sexual abuse which is easily covered up and marked by opprobrium. Nevertheless sexual abuse accounts for 13% of the reports sent in and almost 15% if we include the reports of both physical and sexual abuse.

As already indicated, the interpretation of section 38f seems to differ from one region to another. The results shown in Table 11 are a good illustration: the proportion of reports of physical abuse varies from 44.6% at Ville Marie Social Services Centre to 74.3% at the Jewish Family Services. Generally speaking the percentage in this category is between 55% and 65%. In Gaspésie and the Jewish Family Services the proportions are higher. They are lower in Trois-Rivières (51%), in the Nord-Ouest (47%) and at the Ville Marie centre (44%). There is still a relative uniformity in the whole of central Québec with regard to the distribution of physical

abuse. However, in the category of neglect, the differences in the percentages (22.5% at Amos, 16.7% at Longueuil, 11.2% at Québec, 3.17% at Trois-Rivières, 2.5% in Gaspesie, 4% at Rimouski) suggest that the interpretation of this type of abuse differs from region to region.

Sexual abuse is reported in particular in the eastern regions of Québec (Rimouski 28%, Chicoutimi 30%, Québec City 23.5%), whereas in a number of regions the figure is about 15% or 16%, except for Ville Marie, the Jewish Family Services and Longueuil where the proportions are under 10%.

The fact emerges that, despite some regional variability due in part to differing realities and in part to varying definitions from one place to another, the problem of the maltreatment of children appears to be widespread in every region of Québec, and every type of abuse reported to the directors can be found.

Breakdown by Age Group (Table 12)

The breakdown by age group is substantially the same as in earlier studies. Children 0-5 years of age predominate with 27.8% (almost 50% of neglect cases) and adolescents with 26.6% (close to 50% of the sexual abuse cases). The 6 to 9 group has the lowest proportion (19.6%).

It would seem that for the youngest group neglect is reported most often, combined with physical abuse or not. Neglect accounts for 21.6% of the situations reported for the 0-5 year olds and for 15.5% when associated with physical abuse (totalling 37.1% of the children between 0 and 5 reported). For adolescents, neglect appears in only 18% of the reports.

While the aspect of neglect decreases with age, sexual abuse on the other hand goes up, representing 23% of the case reports for 14-17 year olds, or 26% if we count those combined with physical abuse. The proportion drops to 15% for 10-14 year olds, 9% for those 6-9 and 3% for the 0-5 age group.

Physical abuse is most frequently reported for any age, accounting for over half the reports or even more when we consider that it is sometimes combined with other types of maltreatment, such as neglect or sexual abuse.

Furthermore, the reports of multiple forms of maltreatment (physical abuse and neglect, physical and sexual abuse, other forms of abuse) come to over 15% of the total, whatever the young person's age.

TABLE 10 Number of Report Notices under Section 38f Received by the Comité in 1979 by Background and Region Comparison of Regional Distribution and Distribution of Juvenile Population

	Reports of Known Cases														Total[1] reports		Total population[2]	
	New reports		Bill 78		Bill 24 (38f)		Bill 24 (other)		No information									
	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)					N	%(V)	N	%(V)
Trois-Rivières	268	92.4	19	6.6	1	0.3	2	0.7							290	6.9	122 369	6.9
St-Jérôme	339	80.9	53	12.6	21	5.0	6	1.4							419	10.0	150 213	8.5
Hull	152	90.5	14	8.3	1	0.6	1	0.6							168	4.0	86 728	4.9
Amos	137	81.1	20	11.8	12	7.1									169	4.0	51 038	2.9
St-Jérôme Region	896	85.7	106	10.1	35	3.3	9	0.9							1046	25.0	410 348	23.2
Gaspésie	36	90.0	3	7.5			1	2.5							40	1.0	70 245	4.0
Rimouski	22	88.0	1	4.0	2	8.0									25	0.6		
Chicoutimi	34	85.0	4	10.0	2	5.0									40	1.0	95 828	5.4
Québec City	245	83.3	35	11.9	9	3.1	5	1.7							294	7.0	285 430	16.2
Côte-Nord	66	90.4	6	8.2	1	1.4									73	1.7	41 421	2.4
Québec City Region	403	85.4	49	10.4	14	3.0	6	1.3							472	11.3	492 924	28.0
Sherbrooke	105	86.1	3	2.5			1	0.8	13	10.7					122	2.9	69 609	3.9
Longueuil	1220	84.0	148	10.2	75	5.2	8	0.6	1	0.1					1452	34.8	302 866	17.1
Montréal	599	76.8	47	6.0	133	17.1	1	0.1							780	18.7	491 475	27.8
Ville Marie	194	84.0	15	6.5	20	8.7	2	0.9							231	5.5		
Jewish Family Services	62	83.8			12	16.2									74	1.8		
Montréal Region	2180	82.0	213	13.8	240	9.0	12	0.5	14	0.5					2659	63.7	863 950	48.8
Total	3479	83.3	368	8.8	289	6.9	27	0.6	14	0.3					4177	100.0	1 767 222	100.0

1 The reports in question are those passed on by the directors of youth protection to the Comité.

2 Source: Régime des allocations familiales, Annual Report 1978/1979, March 1979.

TABLE 11 Regional Breakdown of Types of Maltreatment Reported in 1979

	Physical abuse		Neglect		Sexual abuse		Physical abuse and neglect		Physical and sexual abuse		Other		No information		Total	
	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)	N	%(H)
Trois-Rivières	149	51.4	9	3.1	42	14.5	80	27.6	2	0.7	6	2.1	2	0.7	290	6.9
St-Jérôme	235	56.1	44	10.5	60	14.3	30	7.2	15	3.6	20	4.8	14	3.3	419	10.0
Hull	110	65.5	15	8.9	26	15.5	12	7.1	4	2.4			1	0.6	168	4.0
Amos	80	47.3	38	22.5	26	15.4	18	10.7	4	2.4	3	1.8			169	4.0
St-Jérôme Region	574	54.9	106	10.1	154	14.7	140	13.4	25	2.4	29	6.6	17	1.6	1046	25.0
Gaspésie	29	72.5	1	2.5	7	17.5	2	5.0	1	2.5					40	1.0
Rimouski	16	64.0	1	4.0	7	28.0					1	4.0			25	0.6
Chicoutimi	23	57.5	1	2.5	12	30.0	2	5.0	1	2.5			1	2.5	40	1.0
Québec City	162	55.1	33	11.2	69	23.5	26	8.8	2	0.7	1	0.3	1	0.3	294	7.0
Côte-Nord	42	58.9	6	8.2	12	16.4	9	12.3	1	1.4	1	1.4	1	1.4	73	1.7
Québec Region	273	57.8	42	8.9	107	22.7	39	8.3	5	1.1	3	0.6	3	0.6	472	11.3
Sherbrooke	75	61.5	7	5.7	19	15.8	12	9.8	1	0.8	1	0.8	7	5.7	122	2.9
Longueuil	737	50.8	243	16.7	116	0.8	168	11.6	22	1.5	145	10.0	21	1.4	1452	34.8
Ville Marie	475	60.9	71	9.1	118	15.1	65	8.3	9	1.2	24	3.1	18	2.3	780	18.7
Jewish Family	103	44.6	12	5.2	20	8.7	9	4.0	4	1.7	8	3.5	75	32.5	231	5.5
Services	55	74.3	7	9.5	7	9.5	1	1.4			3	4.1	1	1.4	74	1.8
Montréal Region	1445	54.3	340	12.8	280	10.5	255	10.0	36	1.4	181	6.8	122	4.6	2659	63.7
Total	2292	54.6	488	11.7	541	12.9	434	10.4	66	1.6	214	5.1	142	3.6	4177	100.0

TABLE 12 Breakdown by Age Group — Types of Abuse Reported in 1979

Type of abuse / Age in years	Physical abuse N	% (V)	Neglect N	% (V)	Sexual abuse N	% (V)	Physical abuse and neglect N	% (V)	Physical and sexual abuse N	% (V)	Other N	% (V)	No information N	% (V)	Total N	% (V)
0-5	617	26.4	250	51.1	38	7.1	180	41.4	8	11.9	46	21.5	34	23.7	1 173	27.7
% (H)	51.8		21.6		3.3		15.5		0.7		4.0		3.1		100.0%	
6-9	481	21.1	95	19.4	76	14.1	104	23.9	10	14.9	32	15.0	24	17.1	822	19.6
% (H)	58.4		11.5		9.2		12.6		1.2		3.9		3.2		100.0%	
10-13	550	24.1	81	16.6	150	27.3	93	21.4	12	17.9	41	19.2	30	21.1	957	22.9
% (H)	57.5		8.5		15.4		9.7		1.3		4.3		3.4		100.0%	
14-17	593	26.0	51	10.4	255	46.6	46	10.6	33	49.3	86	39.7	45	30.9	1 109	26.9
% (H)	53.6		4.6		22.7		4.2		3.0		7.7		4.2		100.0%	
No information	51	2.4	11	2.5	22	5.0	11	2.8	3	6.0	9	4.7	9	7.2	116	3.1
% (H)	41.5		9.2		20.8		9.2		3.1		7.8		8.5		100.0%	
Total	2 292		488		541		434		66		214		142		4 177	
% (H)	54.6		11.7		12.9		10.4		1.6		5.1		3.6		100.0%	

OVERALL VIEW OF MORE THAN FOUR YEARS OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Although the legal definition of ill-treatment has been modified, and the mandates and responsibilities of agencies offering protection to those in need of it have been transformed, particularly in the case of the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse, the phenomenon of violence toward children, in all its forms, still remains a problem in Québec.

Of course the perception developed by the agencies responsible has evolved with experience and with the constant rise in the requests for assistance and in reports identifying situations of maltreatment. The manner in which the phenomenon is measured statistically has also changed with these changes in perception or responsibility.

Whatever the measurement, all recognize that there has been a steady increase in the number of cases reported. Of course, not all maltreated children or victims of sexual abuse are reported; as with every serious social problem, there is a "black figure", a number of situations which remain unknown. Perhaps the increase in the number of reports reflects better detection of situations, considering the publicity and information broadcast. If this is the case, so much the better. But perhaps the phenomenon is growing. In that case the "unknown" figure will never be reduced.

A second finding is the abiding nature of the problem in our society. The results indicate an annual addition of new cases which are brought to the attention of the authorities.

As illustrated in Table 13, under the former mandate every year there was a growing number of new cases reported to the committee, rising to over 2'700 families in 1978, that is nearly 5 000 children whose cases of maltreatment were reported. In 1979, the level may appear to be lower, but with a more restrictive definition of the problem in the new law, and considering that the number shown in Table 8 refers only to the reports sent on to the Comité, there is probably still a constant number, at least, of new situations involving maltreatment.

Our society invests enormous sums in remedial and protective measures for children who are reported. Would it not be more profitable to invest in preventive measures to stem the development and growth of the phenomenon and thus reduce the number of new victims who are battered, neglected or sexually abused each year?

TABLE 13 Number of Reports of New Cases of Maltreatment, 1975 to 1979

Number of reports of new cases[1] (family) accepted for assessment and guidance		
Period[2]	Number	Monthly average
Jan. 1, 1976 to Dec. 31, 1976 (12 months)	1910	159.2
Jan. 1, 1977 to Dec. 31, 1977 (12 months)	2295	191.3
Jan. 1, 1978 to Dec. 31, 1978 (12 months)	2781	231.8

Number of notices[4] of reports received by the CPJ for new cases (children)				
Period[3]	Number	Monthly average	Protection[5] "family"	Monthly average
Jan. 15, 1979 to Dec. 31, 1979 (11½ months)	3479	302.5	2046	178

Explanatory notes

1 Since the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse has a central cumulative file of the cases of maltreatment reported to it since June 1975, it is able to distinguish new cases, i.e. those that have never been reported before.

2 The periods here are complete previous years; the very first months of the Comité's existence, from October 1, 1975 to December 31, 1975, have been excluded.

3 Since the new Youth Protection Act officially came into force on January 15, 1979, the first two weeks of that year have been omitted. In these two weeks reports were still being made to the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse.

4 The number of new cases presented for 1979 refers to the reports sent on by the DYP to the Comité de la protection de la jeunesse during this period, not the actual number of reports received by the directors, a much higher figure. Again the cases referred to are those that are new, not already in the central file kept by the Comité.

5 Reminder. After January 15, 1979, the legal definition of ill-treatment changed and the unit of measurement became the child, rather than the family. As a result any strict comparison of numbers if futile. In 1979, there was an average of 1.7 children per family reported; hence there is a possible extrapolation of the number of new families reported from the actual number of children.